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## FINAL FOUR PREVIEW

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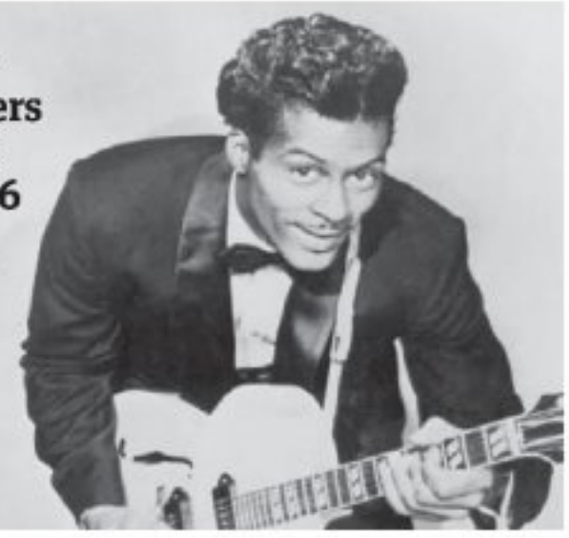

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Selena Gomez's teen series, '13 Reasons Why,' could change your life, too. 13

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# TRUMP DECLARES WAR ON GOP CONSERVATIVES

1 President Donald Trump declared war on members of his own party on Thursday by threatening the political careers of conservative Republicans who helped torpedo health care legislation he backed, but was quickly told the lawmakers will not bow to "bullying." In a Twitter post, Trump took aim at the Freedom Caucus, a bloc of the most conservative Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives, indicating he would try to defeat them in next year's congressional elections if they continued to defy him. "The Freedom Caucus will hurt the entire Republican agenda if they don't get on the team, & fast. We must fight them, & Dems, in 2018!" Trump said on Twitter. REUTERS

# CHINA: 'NO SUCH THING' AS MAN-MADE ISLANDS

2 There was "no such thing" as man-made islands in the disputed South China Sea, China's Defense Ministry said, and reiterated that any building work was mainly for civilian purposes. China, which claims most of the resource-rich region, has carried out land reclamation and construction on several islands in the Spratly archipelago, parts of which are also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. The building has included airports, harbors and other facilities. But ministry spokesman Wu Qian implied that was perhaps a misunderstanding, though he said there was construction work which China had every right to do as the Spratlys were inherent Chinese territory. "There is no such thing as man-made islands," Wu told a regular monthly news briefing. REUTERS

# UN SEES ALARMING TREND AGAINST FREE SPEECH

3 Nineteen U.S. states have introduced bills that would curb freedom of expression and the right to protest since Donald Trump's election as president, an "alarming and undemocratic" trend, U.N. human rights investigators said. Concerns for free speech in the United States have risen in part because of the Republican Trump's antagonistic relations with prominent U.S. media, which he has branded "the enemy of the American people" as it has reported on policy missteps and dysfunction in his administration. The push for stricter laws on expression has come as Trump's liberal foes have pursued public protest against his policies on issues ranging from immigration to abortion and climate change. REUTERS

# BUTTERFLY EYES

4 George Lewys, age 5, poses with two Forest Giant Owl butterflies (Caligo eurilochus) set on slices of oranges at the Natural History Museum on Thursday in London, England. The Natural History Museum's Butterfly House, which features an array of butterflies and chrysalises, is open to the public. GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

# NC REPLACES TRANSGENDER BATHROOM LAW

5 North Carolina repealed a law regulating bathroom use for transgender people, hoping to lure back businesses and sports leagues that boycotted the Southern state because they saw the year-old measure as discriminatory. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper signed the replacement bill into law after the Republican-controlled state Senate and House of Representatives approved it in separate votes earlier in the day in the capital, Raleigh. It was unclear if the legislation would be sufficient to bring back the basketball games, concerts, financial firms and technology companies that abandoned North Carolina. The new measure rescinds House Bill 2, the so-called bathroom bill that required transgender people to use the bathrooms in state-run buildings that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate. REUTERS

# WELCOME TO METRO.US!

KIMBERLY AQUILINA, WEB REPORTER

We see him every day — on TV or via live stream – but what do we really know about White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer besides what we "learn" on "SNL"? Check out (the brand-new) **metro.us/news/politics** to find out more about this former Easter bunny.

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# Republican candidate for Philly DA sees opening after Democrat incumbent's indictment

Beth Grossman is the lone Republican vying amid a crowded field of Democratic candidates who have gotten more attention after DA Seth Williams' arrest.

HAYDEN MITMAN
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Beth Grossman is the only Republican running for Philadelphia district attorney. PROVIDED BY GROSSMAN4DA

Philadelphia has long been a Democratic stronghold, but Republican candidate for district attorney Beth Grossman says that could change following the recent indictment of the city's top prosecutor on corruption charges.

Grossman announced her campaign a year ago, long before Democrat Seth Williams, the current Philadelphia district attorney, was charged with multiple counts of bribery and extortion on March 21.

Grossman, 49, is a former assistant prosecutor in Williams' office, where she worked from 1993 until 2015. She left, Grossman said, because of concerns over corruption.

"I didn't like what I saw going on," she said in an interview on Thursday.

A former Democrat herself, Grossman switched to the Republican Party in 2013 because of her unhappiness with the party and the corruption allegations surrounding it.

But Grossman does have to account for the fact that she switched back to Democrat for a time in 2015. She did that, she said, in order to vote for candidates she respected, then switched back again to the Republican Party.

> *"This office needs to be held to a higher standard of ethics, integrity, transparency and accountability."*
> Beth Grossman

Grossman is the lone Republican amid a crowded field of Democratic contenders, which includes a defense lawyer, a former municipal court judge and two former federal prosecutors. The Democratic candidate who wins the May primary will face Grossman in the November election.

When it comes to sanctuary cities like Philadelphia, which help illegal immigrants avoid deportation by limiting cooperation with federal agencies, Grossman takes a more conservative viewpoint. She is opposed to them because she doesn't believe the city should protect the identity of a "dangerous individual."

Grossman pointed to the problems Philadelphia has had in recent years with corruption in municipal and traffic courts, along with the scandal surrounding former state Attorney General Kathleen Kane, a Democrat who was sentenced last year to up to two years in prison for perjury and abuse of power.

The recent 23-count indictment against Williams, who remains in office and who in February announced he wouldn't seek a third term, is enough evidence that it's time for a change, Grossman said.

"What happened last week [to Williams] blows my mind," she said. "This office needs to be held to a higher standard of ethics, integrity, transparency and accountability."

Grossman said that, if elected, she would work to restore accountability to the district attorney's office. In fact, she said, while she worked in the office under Williams, Grossman had seen a drop in employee morale.

"What kind of example has been set? I know how hard they work," she said. The charges against him, she said, "hurt the office, it hurts the victims of crime and it hurts the city as a whole."

After leaving the DA's office, Grossman served as chief of staff for the city Department of Licenses and Inspections. She also was in private practice with the Philadelphia firm of Nenner & Namerow.

*For more information about Grossman's positions, visit Metro.us.*

An illegal parker gets outed by NotASpotPhila. @NOTASPOTPHILA/INSTAGRAM

# Illegal parkers beware: NotASpotPhila is watching to social media shame you

It used to be that anyone parking illegally in Philadelphia had to worry about being caught by the Parking Authority. Now, there's a good chance they may be publicly shamed on social media thanks to NotASpotPhila.

The Twitter and Instagram account posts photos of parking violations across the city that are submitted by anonymous Philadelphians.

Recent submissions show vehicles parked in front of fire hydrants, on sidewalks, at corners and blocking driveways.

One photo from last month showed a car parked in a turning lane on Oregon Avenue alongside several vehicles parked on the narrow median facing the opposite direction, half in the lane on the other side.

NotASpotPhila's account wasn't created in January just to shame illegal parkers, according to the tweet from a follower that's pinned to the top of its Twitter page with "#1 reason I do this."

"This is advocating for wheelchair users like myself who live in South Philly so we don't have to keep our curb cuts blocked and have to go in the streets and get hit by cars," the tweet said. "To you guys it's no big deal cause you don't realize why the curb cuts are there in the first place and why it's illegal. … I'm glad there's someone sticking up for us like this finally because the public and the parking authority doesn't care."

Metro has reached out to get the Parking Authority's reaction to NotASpotPhila, but has not heard back at the time of publication.

According to Fox 29, NotASpotPhila is run by a local photographer.

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ALL IMAGES COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

# Uber settles with Pennsylvania regulator following record fine

The company was fined for providing thousands of rides without state approval.

Uber Technologies Inc. has reached a settlement with Pennsylvania's taxi regulator to end the ride-hailing company's appeal of a record $11.4 million fine for operating illegally.

A notice posted on Tuesday with the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania said Uber and the state's Public Utility Commission had reported an agreement in principle to settle the case, which involved the largest fine imposed by that regulator.

The appeal was put on hold so a formal agreement between Uber and the PUC could be worked out.

Uber spokesman Craig Ewer confirmed the substance of the notice, but declined to provide details about the accord. PUC spokesman Nils Hagen-Frederiksen said: "The matter is under review by the commission."

The PUC fined Uber last April after finding that the San Francisco-based company had from February to August 2014 provided 122,998 rides in Pennsylvania without prior approval, and obstructed a state probe into its operations.

Though the $11.4 million fine was six times larger than any prior fine imposed by the PUC, it had been reduced from the $49.9 million ordered earlier by two administrative law judges.

The PUC rejected Uber's bid to reconsider the fine on Sept. 1. Uber appealed that decision to the commonwealth court four weeks later.

On March 8, Uber said it would stop using its so-called "Greyball" technology, which helped identify and avoid regulators seeking evidence that drivers were evading local laws governing taxi services.

It is unclear whether that decision was a factor in resolving the Pennsylvania case. REUTERS

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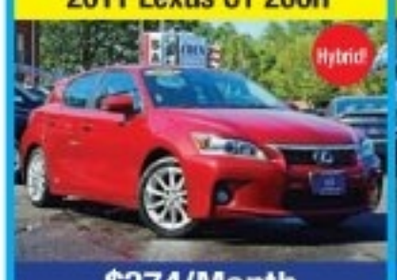


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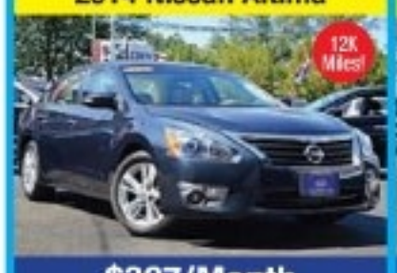


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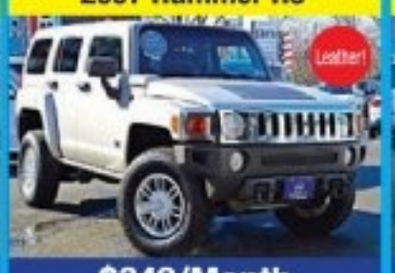


$349/Month

2012 Buick Enclave

$349/Month

2011 Cadillac CTS

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2012 BMW X5 xDrive

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2007 BMW 650i

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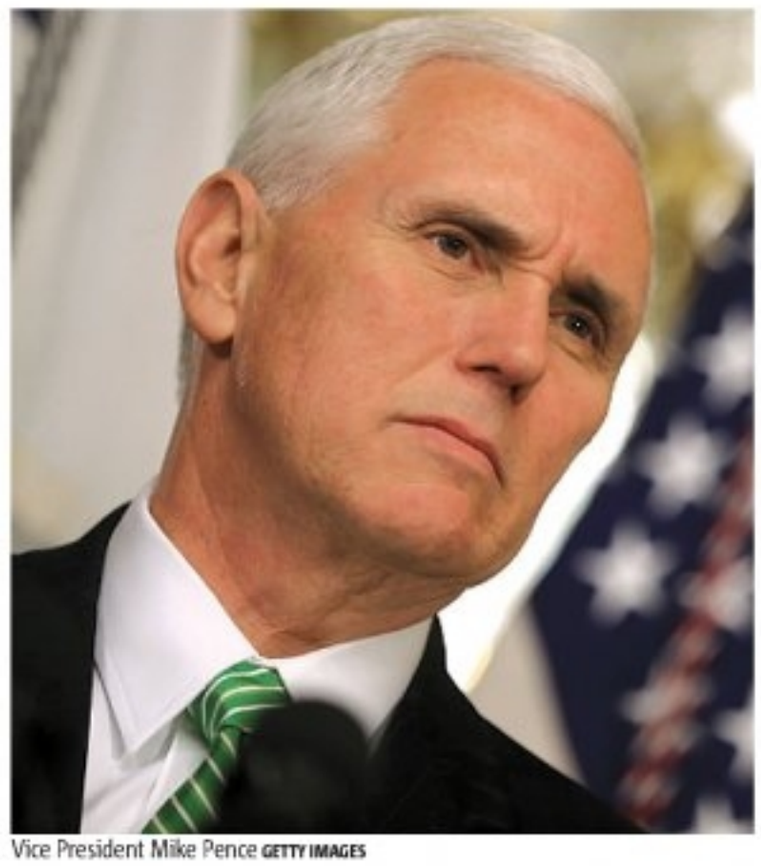
# Senate kills family-planning rule; Pence breaks tie

In recent years states such as Texas have kept some health care providers from receiving the grants as part of the country's longstanding fight over abortion.


Vice President Mike Pence GETTY IMAGES

Vice President Mike Pence took the rare step of breaking a tie in the U.S. Senate on Thursday, casting the deciding vote to roll back protections for reproductive health funds.

Using the Congressional Review Act, which allows lawmakers to repeal recently minted regulations, senators killed a rule intended to keep federal grants flowing to clinics that provide contraception and other services in states that want to block the funding.

The rule was enacted in the final weeks of former President Barack Obama's administration, giving lawmakers the opening to nullify it under the review law.

It was the second time on Thursday that Pence used his role as the chamber's president to end a deadlock. He was called to the capitol earlier to carry the resolution through a procedural vote.

Saying the rule usurps states' rights, Republicans argued local lawmakers should decide how health care money is distributed.

Their main concern is that federal money is being used to provide abortions, although the grants are specifically barred from funding those procedures. Republicans, including President Donald Trump, generally oppose abortion.

"This regulation is an unnecessary restriction on states that know their residents' own needs best," said Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Democrats said the resolution was an attack on women's health, contending the rollback will make it harder for low-income and rural women to obtain screenings for cancer and other diseases, as well as contraception.

> *"Republicans didn't listen to us. ... They didn't listen to women across the country who made it clear that restricting women's access to the full range of reproductive care is unacceptable."*
>
> Sen. Patty Murray

Most resolutions killing recent Obama-era regulations have sailed through the Republican-controlled Congress. They need to win only simple majorities in both chambers to go to the president for signing.

The congressional review law was used only once successfully until this year. The family-planning resolution marked the 13th time it has been deployed effectively since the beginning of February, as well as the first time a resolution has come within a hair's breadth of failing.

"Republicans didn't listen to us," said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the senior Democrat on the health committee. "They didn't listen to women across the country who made it clear that restricting women's access to the full range of reproductive care is unacceptable."

The nonprofit Planned Parenthood, which provides abortions and many other health and contraception services, receives some of the federal funding.

Noting the recent collapse of the Republican health care bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, Dawn Laguens, executive vice president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said Thursday's votes were close because "people are sick and tired of politicians making it even harder for them to access health care."

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# Venezuela's Maduro decried as 'dictator' after Congress annulled

There was swift international condemnation of the de facto annulment of the National Assembly, where the opposition won a majority in late 2015 amid an unprecedented economic crisis that has seen Maduro's popularity plummet.

The president of Venezuela's National Assembly Julio Borges, holds a copy of a sentence from Venezuela's Supreme Court granting itself legislative powers, as he speaks during a press conference in Caracas on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

Opposition leaders branded Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro a "dictator" on Thursday after the Supreme Court took over the functions of Congress and pushed a lengthy political standoff to new heights.

The head of the 34-nation Organization of International States (OAS), Luis Almagro, said the Venezuelan court had dealt the final blows to democracy in the country and accused Maduro's "regime" of carrying out a "coup."

Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Colombia and Chile expressed strong concerns while Peru withdrew its envoy after what it termed a rupture of democracy in the OPEC nation of 30 million people.

Venezuela's top court had already overturned most National Assembly decisions since the opposition win. Then late on Wednesday, it explicitly stated it was assuming Congress' role in a ruling authorizing Maduro to create oil joint ventures without the previously mandated congressional approval.

"As long as the situation of contempt in the National Assembly continues, this constitutional chamber guarantees congressional functions will be exercised by this chamber or another chosen organ," the court said in its ruling.

The contempt charge stems from vote-buying accusations against three lawmakers from southern Amazonas state. Even though these legislators no longer sit, the court said parliamentary leaders had not handled their case legally.

Critics of Maduro say it is all an excuse for him to consolidate power and muzzle the opposition amid a severe recession, soaring inflation and acute shortages of food and medicine.

Maduro, a 54-year-old former bus driver and foreign minister, was narrowly elected in 2013 to replace late leftist President Hugo Chavez. He has accused Washington of leading a push to topple him as part of a wider offensive against leftist governments.

Stung by the rebukes around Latin America, Maduro's government condemned what it described as a "right-wing regional pact" against it on Thursday.

"We reject the Peruvian government's rude support for the violent and extremist sectors in Venezuela," Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez said in a series of tweets.

Leaders of Venezuela's Democratic Unity opposition coalition renewed their demand for early presidential elections and accused Maduro of duplicating Peruvian leader Alberto Fujimori's notorious 1992 closure of Congress.

"Nicolas Maduro has carried out a 'coup d'etat' ... this is a dictatorship," said National Assembly President Julio Borges, before tearing up a copy of the Supreme Court ruling at a news conference in the gardens of the legislature. REUTERS

## ASIA

**South Korea court approves warrant to arrest ousted president Park Geun-hye**

A South Korean court approved a warrant to arrest ousted president Park Geun-hye, the country's first democratically elected leader to be thrown out of office.

Park can be held in a cell for up to 20 days while she is investigated over allegations that she colluded with a friend, Choi Soon-sil, to pressure big businesses to contribute to now-defunct foundations set up to back her policy initiatives.

A judge at the Seoul Central District Court said in a statement that "the cause and the need for the warrant are recognized as the main charges against her have been verified and as evidence could be destroyed."

About two hours after the ruling, Park was driven to the Seoul Detention Center located just outside of the city in a black sedan, with two female investigators escorting her.

Her supporters shouted her name and waved South Korean flags as she arrived at the detention center just before 5 a.m. local time, behind a cordon formed by the police to prevent the crowd from following her in and mixing with any Park opponents, who were also at the scene. REUTERS

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# IVANKA MOVES IN

**TOM FOREMAN**
*Opinion*

Ever since the election (for that matter even before), critics have raged about the hopelessly complicated tangle of Donald Trump's personal, professional and political lives. They've worried about conflicts of interest, influence peddling, and whether he'll bring the WWE to the Rose Garden. So no doubt they are thrilled to hear the president's daughter is now on the White House staff.

Ivanka Trump announced her new, unpaid position this week, making official what pretty much everyone thought anyway — like her husband Jared Kushner, she is a real player in the new D.C. The 35-year-old socialite, businesswoman, former fashion model, and famous offspring will be sitting in high-level meetings, talking policy, perusing sensitive documents, and hobnobbing with world leaders. She'll be at state dinners. She may even have the White House password for Netflix.

I won't get all judgey about her fitness for the task. She seems smart enough, and trust me, White Housers are not always the hottest fries in the basket anyway. She made some solid points during the campaign, especially on women's rights, even if liberals scream at the very idea she could champion such a cause. And perhaps she'll help drag dear old dad back toward center when his right-leaning friends pull him too far down conservative cul-de-sacs. She has been, after all, a Democrat much of her life.

Granted, there are potential problems. She also brings political inexperience, a Trump-centric world view, and even more insular thinking — all of which this White House already has in spades.

But here is a good reason even Dump-Trumpers should feel a tiny bit better about this latest news from the growing Mar-a-Lago on Pennsylvania Avenue. Government watchdogs can keep a closer eye on official advisers than on unofficial ones. Now that she has a desk in the West Wing, they have more legal tools to compel disclosure. They can demand records. They can better track her comings, goings, and conversations. Congress can more easily demand answers — under subpoena if need be.

And let's face it: She was going to be there anyway. Now, at least, we have a better chance of knowing what she's up to.

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# Lawyers: 'El Chapo' prison conditions worst in US, prevent proper defense

Guzman is restricted to his New York City cell for 23 hours a day, with the lights on at all times.

Held without access to sunlight or his relatives, Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is under more restrictive captivity than any other U.S. prisoner and it is difficult to mount a defense, his court appointed lawyers said on Thursday.

Mexico extradited Guzman, who is the head of Sinaloa Cartel, to New York in January, a few hours before U.S. President Donald Trump took office. Guzman, who escaped from two Mexican prisons and was a key figure in a bloody drug war, is seen as a flight risk by the U.S. government.

Guzman has one hour of exercise in a small interior cage with no access to fresh air or sunlight, Amnesty International said in a letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrea Goldbarg dated March 28.

He has not been allowed to speak to his wife or other family members, and the conditions of captivity exceed any other mainland U.S. prison, including the super-secure Colorado prison known as Supermax, public defense attorney Michelle Gelernt said.

"Mr. Guzman is being held under the worst, most restrictive conditions of any prisoner currently detained by the United States government," Gelernt said. "Even convicted prisoners held in the notorious federal Supermax in Colorado are allowed to watch television in their cells, exercise outside where they can speak with other inmates, and speak with their families. Mr. Guzman enjoys none of these benefits."

Drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is escorted into a helicopter at Mexico City's airport on Jan. 8, 2016. GETTY IMAGES

*"Mr. Guzman is being held under the worst, most restrictive conditions of any prisoner currently detained by the United States government."*

Gelerent

In a filing on Wednesday to U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan of the Eastern District of New York, Guzman's lawyers said the strict confinement puts Guzman at risk of psychological damage, and that he may already be "hearing non-existent sounds."

U.S. prosecutors have argued that such tough measures - called Special Administrative Measures - are needed to prevent Guzman from communicating with his cartel cohorts still running the multinational trafficking organization, and to prevent repeats of his two Mexican prison escapes.

In his most recent escape in 2015, Guzman walked out of prison through a mile-long highly engineered tunnel from his cell, a sign of the huge influence he was able to wield even from behind bars.

The U.S. confinement conditions, especially restrictions on communicating with family members, means it is tough for Guzman to contract private lawyers, since he is not able to speak to his family to arrange payment or discuss potential attorneys, Gelernt said. REUTERS

## LEGISLATION

### North Carolina replaces transgender bathroom law crash

A North Carolina on Thursday repealed a law regulating bathroom use for transgender people, hoping to lure back businesses and sports leagues that boycotted the Southern state because they saw the year-old measure as discriminatory.

Democratic Governor Roy Cooper signed the replacement bill into law after the Republican-controlled state Senate and House of Representatives approved it in separate votes earlier in the day in the capital, Raleigh.

It was unclear if the legislation would be sufficient to bring back the basketball games, concerts, financial firms and technology companies that abandoned North Carolina, costing its economy hundreds of millions of dollars.

The new measure rescinds House Bill 2, the so-called bathroom bill that required transgender people to use the bathrooms, changing rooms and showers in state-run buildings that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity.
REUTERS

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Selena Gomez on the set of Netflix's new miniseries, "13 Reasons Why."
BETH DUBBER/NETFLIX

# The good influencer

Selena Gomez explains why she stayed behind the camera for her new Netflix show.

LUCÍA HERNÁNDEZ
MWN
letters@metro.us

The star of "13 Reasons Why" could have been Selena Gomez.

Instead, the most followed person on Instagram stuck to working behind the scenes, signing on as executive producer for the Netflix drama, alongside Pulitzer-winning playwright Brian Yorkey and her mother, Mandy Teefey. The mysterious miniseries follows Hannah, a timid high school student who leaves behind 13 cassette tapes, each explaining how the person listening contributed to her suicide.

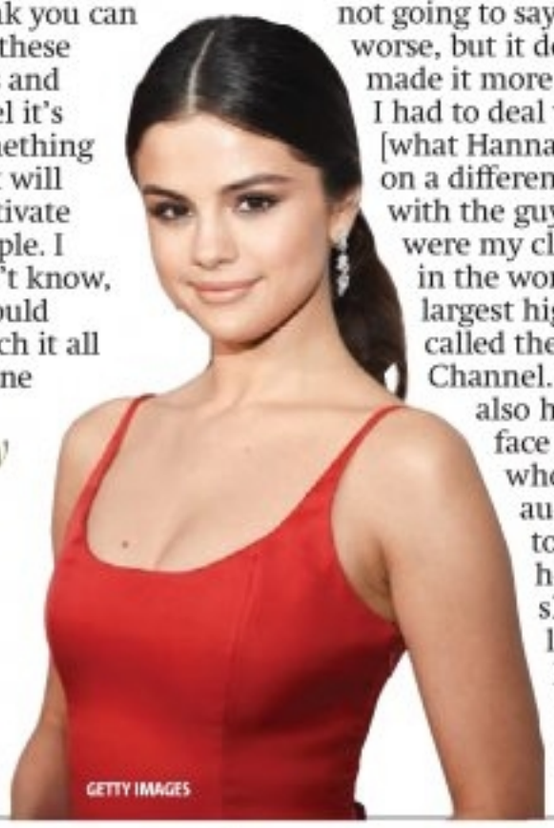
Gomez explains her decision to stay off-camera, how she related to Hannah in high school and why you won't be able to watch just one episode when the 13-part series drops today on Netflix.

**At first you wanted to play the main character, right?**

Yeah. Well, it was my mom who found the book. I was about 16 or 17 when I read the book, [and] I saw that I could perfectly relate to the story. And above all, my fans could connect with it. They're incredibly authentic with me and tell me what they think and feel in a superhonest way. But now that time has passed, I think there's no better person to play Hannah than Katherine [Langford]. I mean, you see her and it's her. I think she works perfectly for the character.

**It's a superintense story to binge-watch.**

The first episodes are really captivating. [They] clearly explain the relationship of the characters and what happened to Hannah, but it gets more and more dark. I think you're progressively seeing a side of Clay [Dylan Minnette] where he shows that he's a guy that's confused, sad and maybe a little shy, who transforms into … I'm not going to reveal anything else. But I think you can see these arcs and I feel it's something that will captivate people. I don't know, I would watch it all in one sitting. Maybe there will even be someone that will watch it more than once. Everyone will enjoy it in their own way.


GETTY IMAGES

**Did you see yourself reflected in Hannah in any way?**

I think my high school experience was, so to speak, amplified. I'm not going to say it was worse, but it definitely made it more difficult. I had to deal with [what Hannah does] on a different scale, with the guys who were my classmates in the world's largest high school called the Disney Channel. But I also had to face adults who had the audacity to tell me how I should live my life. It was very confusing at the time. I had no idea how I should behave or how I would be when I grew up. It definitely hits you at your most vulnerable time.

That's why I wanted to make sure I was part of this project in some way. My mother helped me because she knew that it was very important for me. That's what kids have to see. They do not want to see false speeches of empty optimism, because that does not matter to them. They have to see something that moves them, something that scares them. All of these people will instantly connect with the characters.

I would do anything to be a good influence for this generation. It was difficult, but I did everything possible to get involved with every aspect of the series. I was there when they were shooting the last episode and it was really touching to see how everything came to life.

*"[Kids] do not want to see false speeches of empty optimism, because that does not matter to them. They have to see something that moves them, something that scares them. All of these people will instantly connect with the characters."*

Selena Gomez on her new Netflix series "13 Reasons Why"

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Scarlett Johansson plays an iconic (and, ahem, Japanese) character in "Ghost in the Shell." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

## "Ghost in the Shell"

●●●○○

The very embodiment of the American remake of something foreign, the new American "Ghost in the Shell" is like a late-comer to a party it started itself. You can blame a good deal of modern blockbuster cinema on Mamoru Oshii's 1995 cyberpunk anime (adapted from the beloved manga). Word is, when they were trying to get the money for "The Matrix," the Wachowskis simply screened "Ghost in the Shell" and said something to the effect of "We want to do that." "Avatar," "A.I." "Ex Machina" — all owe it a fancy dinner. It's a husk that's been picked apart by buzzards, its remains now regurgitated onto multiplex screens because Americans don't like to watch movies from other countries.

Considering that, it's amazing how watchable the new "Ghost in the Shell" turns out to be. Freely mixing in bits from the original film, its superior 2004 sequel and its various TV shows, the new version, like the old, follows the exploits of a gang of robocops working for a counterterrorism outfit in deep future Tokyo. While most from the world of tomorrow are at least part-robot, the agent known as the Major (Scarlett Johansson) is the first that's all-synthetic — a brain wiped of its memories that's been implanted in the body of, well, something that looks like Scarlett Johansson. While investigating a series of assassinations, the Major slowly realizes the case may lead her to discover her true identity.

This last plot thread wasn't in the original, making this "Ghost in the Shell" if not essential then at least not not essential. It molds a classic until it conforms to modern blockbuster shape. The favorite bits from the original are kept; the bits that might alienate mass audiences are cut down

Its one arguable improvement is also the thing that's made it a controversy-magnet. As our bot-hero, Johansson is so steely and charismatic you can periodically forget that this is yet another case of Hollywood "white-washing." In a way, she's even perfectly cast: With this, "Her," "Under the Skin" and "Lucy," she is the movies' reigning queen of humanoids and post-human characters. Of course, in another way, she's simply the wrong person for the job. MP

## "The Boss Baby""

●●○○○

"The Boss Baby" plays like one of those films that started out with a simple, zero-common-denominator pitch, then got hopelessly garbled en route to the big screen. It probably began with seven simple words: "What if a baby was a boss?" Luckily, at some point enough people realized that was stupid even for a stupid kids' movie. But in trying to make it smart, they overcompensated. As so, we have what "The Baby Boss" really is, which is the most convoluted, bizarre story since "Collateral Beauty." Trying to explain the plot at parties will make you feel like you're on acid.

First off, he's not really a boss baby. He's Templeton (voice of Alec Baldwin), and like all babies in the alternate dimension of "The Boss Baby," he was created in a secret factory. Most babies are sent off to families to live normal baby lives, adults none-the-wiser. Templeton was chosen to be part of "management," shipped off to a corporation called "BabyCorp," where talking, smart babies work hard to make sure adults still have babies. Or something. It's a little vague. Templeton aspires to be CEO, and so he elects to pose as a regular, non-smart baby to stop an epidemic that has more people buying cute puppies than they are pooping out cute babies. (Is this even a real trend?)

Sometimes "The Boss Baby" plays like a parody of modern mainstream cinema's weird yen for impossibly dense mythologies, where even a simple story about a toddler walking around in a suit has to spend half its length explaining the plot.

The good news is that it's also frequently charming, even delightful. The story is told not by Templeton, but by Tim (Miles Christopher Bakshi), a 7-year-old suburbanite. Tim admits to having an overactive imagination, and his tale purports to delve into his anxieties over having a younger brother, much less one that in private speaks with the voice of our current reigning Trump impersonator. (Speaking of which, the Trumpisms are, alas, devastatingly low, though Templeton is definitely the better businessman.) It's a beautifully made film. It just doesn't make any sense. MP

The Alec Baldwin-voiced runt in "The Boss Baby" looks downright presidential. DREAMWORKS ANIMATION

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# 5 Examples of Hollywood white-washing

This week sees the release of "Ghost in the Shell." It's a huge movie — one of the year's priciest, starring one of our splashiest names, Scarlett Johansson. Yet right there is the problem: The white, American actress is playing a cyborg hero who, in the beloved anime and manga upon which the film is based, was, of course, Japanese. **MATT PRIGGE**

## "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961)

Any casual viewing of the Audrey Hepburn classic is periodically made uncomfortable whenever Mickey Rooney shows up. He's Mr. Yunioshi, Holly Gollightly's easily annoyed neighbor. Never one to do anything by half measures, the legend goes all-in with the broad Asian stereotypes, complete with giant teeth and overly squinted eyes.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Scarlett Johansson plays a character written as Japanese in the new "Ghost in the Shell." She joins a long Hollywood tradition of white-washing. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

## "Othello" (1965)

Over the centuries, Shakespeare's "Moor of Venice" has been played by white actors, including Anthony Hopkins in a 1981 production. But few went all-in on the blackface the way Laurence Olivier did in this 1965 film. As if it wasn't enough for him to bathe his face in burnt cork.

GETTY IMAGES

FOX

## "Short Circuit" (1986)

Fisher Stevens has done a lot of good; last year he directed "Before the Flood," a climate-change doc starring Leonardo DiCaprio. When he was younger, though, he applied brownface and an over the top accent to play Ben Jabituya, the Indian scientist who, along with Steve Guttenberg, helps create wisecracking robot Johnny 5. How bad were the '80s? So bad that Stevens reprised the role, this time as the lead, in "Short Circuit 2."

## "Pan" (2015)

The pushback to Rooney Mara playing Tiger Lily, Peter Pan's Native American Neverland bud, was fierce. But to her credit, Mara admitted that taking the role didn't make her "feel great.""Pan" was hated by critics and it went down as one of the priciest bombs in movie history. So at least there was some comeuppance.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

MARVEL

## "Doctor Strange" (2016)

Tackling a source birthed in 1963 — with a white character traveling to Asia and literally stealing another culture's magic — Hollywood did what it could. You could even argue that it's not even a bad thing that the Ancient One is now a Celtic mystic played by a hairless Tilda Swinton. But we still have a long way to go, as you can tell by "Ghost in the Shell."

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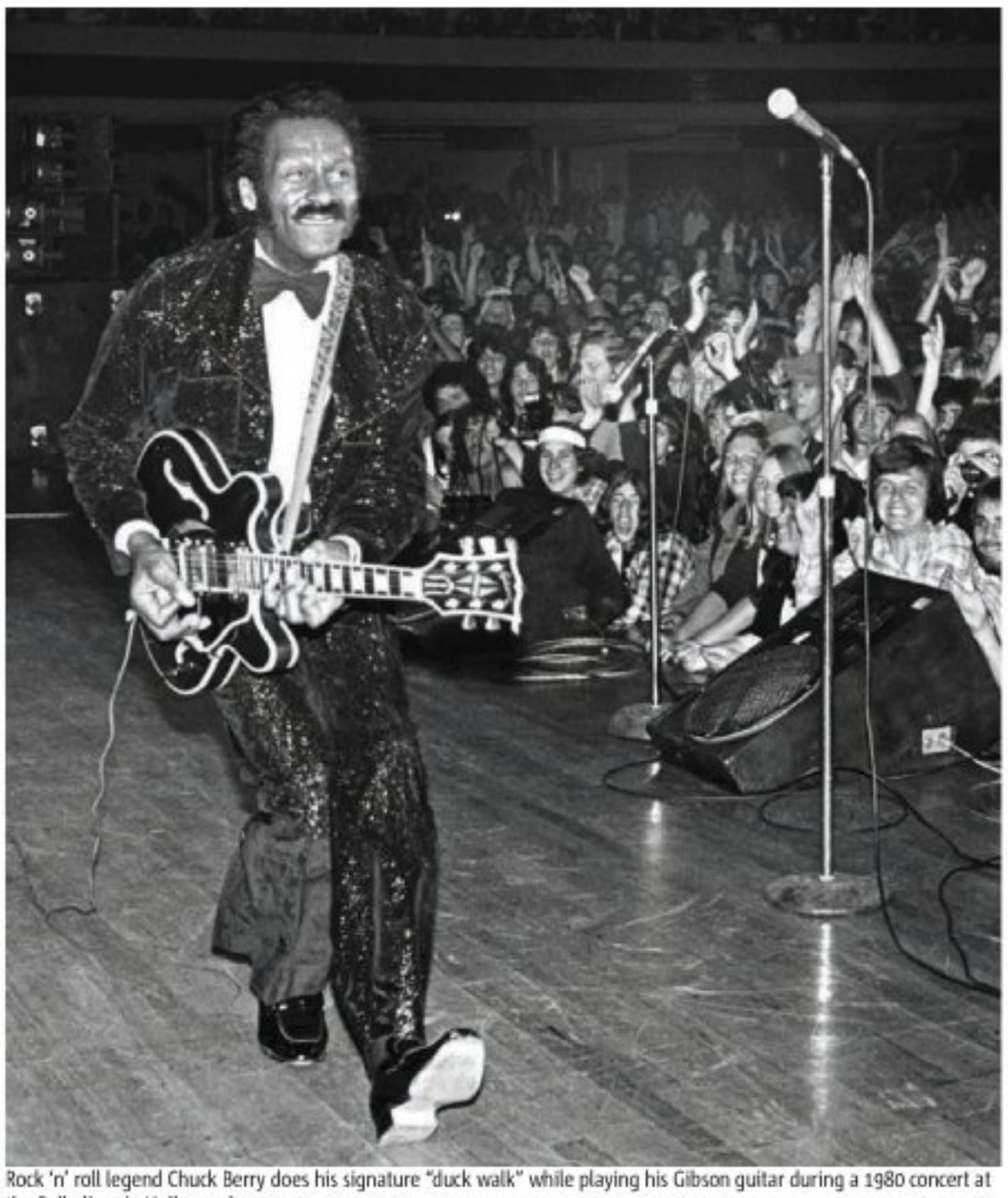

Rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry does his signature "duck walk" while playing his Gibson guitar during a 1980 concert at the Palladium in Hollywood. GETTY IMAGES

# Jawn-y, be good

## Local band celebrates Chuck Berry in style.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Roll over to Kung Fu Necktie on Saturday to see a tribute show with a twist. A twist competition, that is.

Philly's own "Back to the Future" tribute will honor Chuck Berry's legacy during Hail Hail: Rock 'n' Roll at Kung Fu Necktie (2501 N. Front St). It's Marvin, Your Cousin Marvin Berry (that's the band's name for real) only plays Berry's music. It channels rockabilly flair while encouraging the audience to dance like it's 1955.

Guitarist and singer Nick Anastasi received several texts and phone calls March 18, the day of Berry's death. People were already planning how Anastasi and his bandmates would celebrate Berry in Philly.

"He did so much for people and he didn't even realize it," says Anastasi.

Anastasi started playing a repertoire of Berry's songs with bandmates Tony Trov and Mike Vivas when the power trio were teenagers living in South Philly. After a short hiatus, the band is getting back together to help Philly show some love for the icon who inspired them. Anastasi decided he wanted to play guitar after watching Michael J. Fox perform "Johnny B. Goode" while portraying Marty McFly in "Back to the Future."

"That was my introduction to [Berry]," says Anastasi. "Marty is this dork in high school. But at the end, he's a hero. I wanted to be that."

For It's Marvin, Your Cousin's Marvin Berry, it wouldn't be a show without a dance off. The band prompts an audience twist competition by playing the bright descending riff at the beginning of "C'est La Vie."

"Most of the time, 90 percent of the audience starts twisting immediately," says Anastasi. "There is always a few people that want to win so badly — they're on the floor and on the tables. By the end, you see the one person who is the winner."

Like a lot of musicians who challenged and shaped their genres, Berry was an outlier of his time. But by the end of the decade, Berry's style summed up what people now know as quintessential '50s music. The blues riffs and striking drum beats can be associated with drive-in movies, swirling swing skirts and a generation that bopped.

"People love this music even if they don't know exactly what it is," says Anastasi. "All '50s music has been portrayed as the soundtrack of this American golden age where everyone had a job, a car and a turkey in the oven."

### If you go

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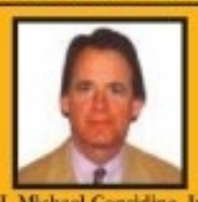

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# Eagles have nearly no choice but to shed Kelce, Mathews for cap space

The Eagles salary cap situation is not pretty right now.

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Don't be surprised if the Eagles cut ties with more friendly faces this spring, including Ryan Mathews and Jason Kelce. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles are scheduled to owe their players $182.6 million in 2017 — not including this week's signings of Chris Long and Patrick Robinson.

That seems like a lot — and it is — especially considering the NFL's salary cap is $179.5 million for the Eagles and their spending spree seems to show no signs of slowing down (numbers according to spotrac.com).

Estimates have Long's contract around $2.4 million — though the structure is not clear — and Robinson's around $1 million. That puts the Eagles even further behind the mark.

Philly will have to do something. Two recent instances have seen the Steelers and 49ers penalized draft picks for failing to be under the cap.

According to the complicated details of the most recent collective bargaining agreement, NFL teams do have the ability to spread out the remaining cap hits of any players cut after June 1 for two or three years subsequently — which is no doubt a strategy Philly will utilize.

First lets look at the cause of the lack of cap space. The Eagles have gone through some regime change in recent years as the Chip Kelly era is now almost completely in the rearview.

One of the lingering consequences of Kelly's reign terror is that the Doug Pederson-Howie Roseman era had to shed some unfavorable players for a new scheme.

This leaves over $14 million in dead cap money — money the Eagles are paying players not to play for them. The four worst hits Philly is taking come from Sam Bradford, Chase Daniel, Connor Barwin and Eric Rowe, all combining to cost the Eagles $13.1 million next season. Daniel's new contract with the Saints could add a little relief but it won't be enough.

They have also added some big ticket items this offseason like wide receivers Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith. The releases of Connor Barwin, Daniel and Leodis McKelvin just weren't enough. The Eagles need to make up some ground and they'll need to cut more players.

**Jason Kelce**
The most logical target for the axe is Pro Bowl center Jason Kelce, but Pederson said he expected Kelce to stay with the team and to be the starter in September. Cutting Kelce would open up $3.8 million in cap space. His removal from the team could work as Chase Warmack can start at guard, moving promising young lineman Isaac Seumalo to center. The team also resigned versatile Stephen Wisniewski to return.

**Ryan Mathews**
Mathews had offseason herniated disk surgery and according to the NFL's bylaws, cutting him right away could be tricky. The team does not want to be on the hook for a multi-million dollar injury settlement. However as he recovers, when healthy he could be cut. Philly has been connected to a bevy of running backs in the upcoming draft. Mathews will count for $5 million against the salary cap, $4 million of which the Eagles can save if they trade or cut him.

**Mychal Kendricks**
Unfortunately, the odd man out in the Eagles' linebacking room Kendricks won't be so easy to move on from. Despite the fact that he was rarely used in 2016 and doesn't quite fit into Jim Schwartz' defense, the fifth year pro is due $6.6 million in 2017 and has a cap hit of more than $9 million. The team can get out of his contract for $3.2 million after one more season. They'll try and trade him but he might be stuck here for one more season.

**Jason Peters**
Peters is the Eagles last hope to save money. There is no chance the future hall of fame left tackle will be cut, but his cap hit is only $2 million against an $11.2 million salary. Meaning that releasing him would open up $9.2 million and solve all of the Eagles woes. Would the 35-year-old be willing to restructure his deal, which has one more year left after 2017?

## BRIEF

**Source: Union midfielder Eric Ayuk closing in on loan deal**
Eric Ayuk could be on the move as the Philadelphia Union midfielder is eyeing a job in Europe.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a source tells Metro that Ayuk is close to a deal in Sweden. The move follows his recent strong showing for Cameroon in the U-20 African Cup of Nations tournament.

Signed in 2015, Ayuk came on strong in his first year in MLS with 28 appearances and 14 starts. But a crowded midfield in Philadelphia and constant national team duty made playing time harder to come by last season.

A move would give Ayuk some playing time while also giving him a European platform. The source tells Metro that teams in Switzerland as well as England are trailing the player.
KRISTIAN DYER

# Things to watch for when Final Four tips

Everything you need to know before the last three games of the season.

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The Final Four may contain four relatively household names in North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina and Gonzaga, but each is surprisingly different with regards to their college hoops legacy, pedigree and strategy.

The seeming spring to the finish that began two weeks ago with 68 teams has slowed down as the spotlight shines on Phoenix and the national title up for grabs when the first game tips at 6:10 p.m. on CBS Saturday (No. 1 Gonzaga vs. No. 7 South Carolina) followed by 8:50 p.m.'s nightcap (No. 1 UNC vs. No. 3 Oregon).

In the last doubleheader of the college basketball season, here are five things we'll be watching:

## 1 First timers

There is a guarantee that a first-time Final Four squad will play for the title Monday. That's because neither Gonzaga nor South Carolina has ever advanced this far. Which sort of evens the playing field for the first matchup, though the Zags are a 6.5-point Vegas favorite.

Could a first-time team win twice and bring home a title over a more experienced crew like the Tar Heels? Frank Martin, head coach of the Gamecocks, thinks so.

"Once the game starts, I think everything is irrelevant. Everyone's nervous," the coach said. "I don't care, you can play in the national championship game nine years in a row, if you go the 10th time, you're going to be nervous before the ball goes up in the air. There's no such thing as not being nervous for a game."

## 2 Future NBA stars

There are a handful of names to know before the games tip off, starting with Oregon's Tyler Dorsey. He has averaged 24.5 points per game on 66.7 percent shooting in the NCAA Tournament and is lethal from beyond the arch.

South Carolina's Sindarius Thornwell is the front-runner for Most Outstanding Player, netting 25.8 points per game — best in the tourney. His draft stock is soaring.

UNC has a handful of future NBAers led by Justin Jackson and Joel Berry, while Gonzaga will be well-represented on draft day as Nigel Williams-Goss could be playing himself into first-round pick territory.

UNC is a big favorite, but anything can happen when it's one-and-done (instead of a 7-game series like in the NBA). GETTY IMAGES

## 3 The coaches

Martin is best known for being the angry, red-faced former coach of Kansas State (during the Michael Beasley days), but he has turned into a master motivator and recruiter. UNC's skipper, Roy Williams, has two NCAA titles under his belt while Oregon's Dana Altman is bursting onto the national scene after unbridled success coaching Creighton for over a decade when it was a mid-major.

And of course, finally, there is Gonzaga's Mark Few, who has enjoyed a period of masterful success in the Northwest and will finally lead a team playing on college basketball's biggest stage.

## 4 The favorites

The Tar Heels are big favorites to win a championship after falling, well, one second short in 2016 thanks to Kris Jenkins' now legendary buzzer-beating 3-pointer in Villanova's title last April.

Most of the principle parts of the team are back, with Berry leading the offense like a true point guard and Jackson providing a high-volume scoring approach that has worked throughout the tournament. They also have size and experience in senior big men Kennedy Meeks and Isaiah Hicks.

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# Bruised, battered, short-handed Sixers hobbling toward season's merciful end

The 76ers have played remarkably well despite missing nearly half their team due to injury.

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The 76ers are limping to the finish line. Literally.

Before the Sixers set out to battle the Atlanta Hawks, coach Brett Brown went through injury updates. It wasn't pretty. It isn't pretty.

The Sixers had seven and a half players available. Seven and a half? Yep. T.J. McConnell, Dario Saric, Nik Stauskas, Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot, Richaun Holmes, Justin Anderson and Shawn Long were healthy. Gerald Henderson and Tiago Splitter were both probable, though neither seemed close to 100 percent.

This is the dilemma that Brown faces as he prepares to close out his fourth season. And with the roster dwindling by the day, the stretch run is unlikely to be a smooth ride.

Amazingly, the Sixers have managed to win 28 games, which equals 75 over four nearly completed seasons. Do the math and you realize that's not a lot of wins. But Brown remains unfazed. He just might be the most positive person in all of professional sports.

"You still try to set a foundation for your culture," Brown was saying before the game. "How can you develop a culture if you're losing all the time? Aren't you just getting used to losing? That isn't true. Pieces matter. How you practice matters. … I certainly don't think like that. I think, 'Let's just do the right thing and not compromise any of our standards.'"

Dario Saric somehow has remained the Sixers' healthiest player amid a season of setbacks. GETTY IMAGES

Brown was responding to a question about dealing with the loss of franchise cornerstones Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons. Embiid played 31 games. Simmons never put on a Sixers uniform. Jahlil Okafor continues to be out with right knee soreness and his future appears to be in doubt.

"You continue to fight with what you have," Brown said matter-of-factly.

What's left doesn't resemble a healthy NBA team at the end of March.

Yet.

"We have exceeded expectations," Brown said. "I'm completely enamored by these guys. I respect them. I enjoy coaching them."

The MASH unit could use the assistance of Hawkeye Pierce or Maj. Charles Emerson Winchester III. It's that dicey right now with injuries.

Embiid and Simmons need to be on the court next season. They need to play the majority of the season and reinvigorate this fan base which had a taste of success in January. The draft must be successful. Other moves must be made.

Year 5 of the Brown era has to be a major step forward. For now, Brown continues to work with what he's been given.

"I love it," he said of player development. "It's my background. It's where you establish relationships. You build sweat equity."

It's time to build a winning program. The Sixers will limp through the remainder of this season. Every offseason is huge. This particular one will be extra huge for this franchise.

Let's hope the fans get what they deserve.

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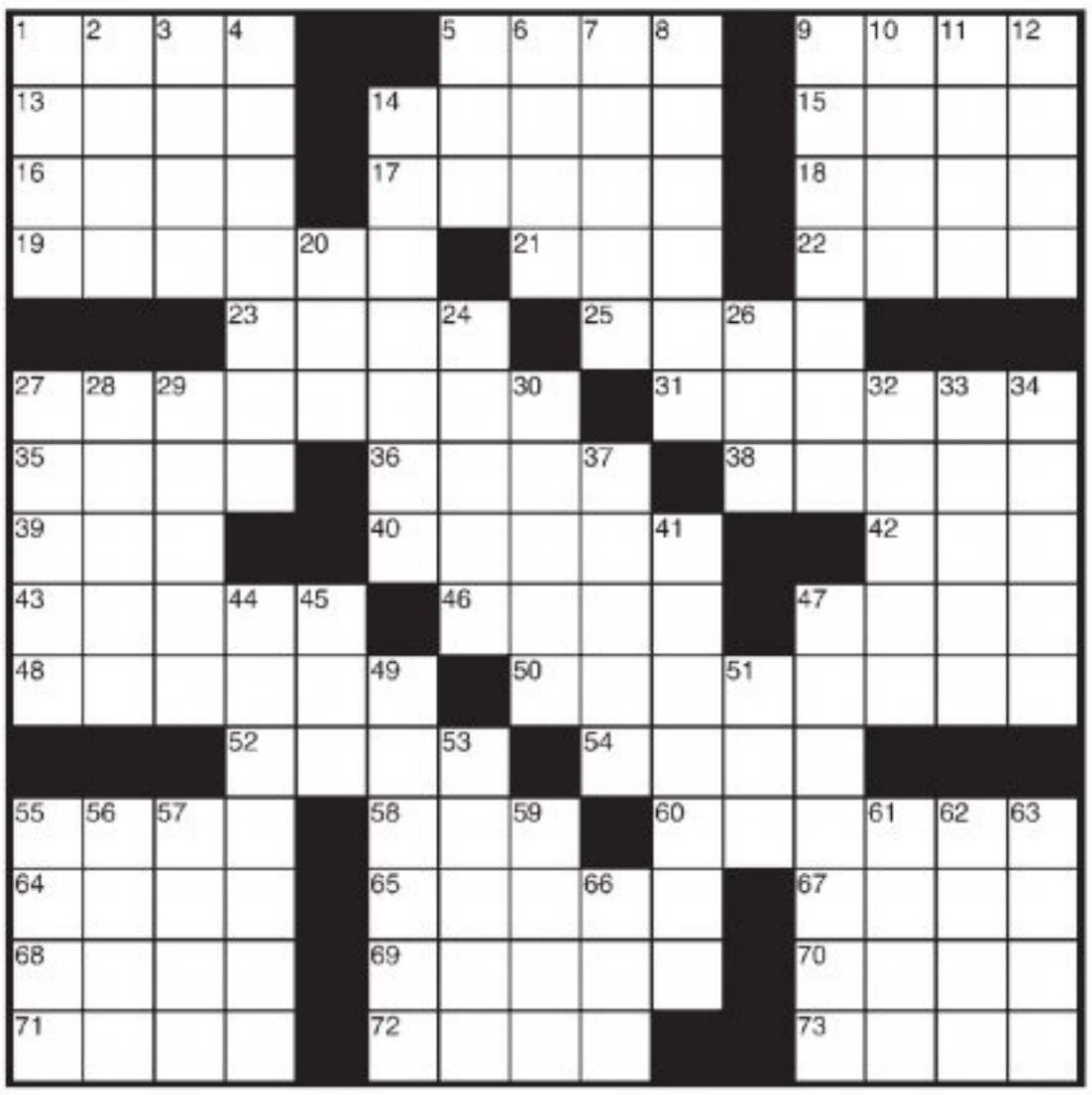
20 Dist. from the equator
24 Mystery writer – Peters
26 Dine
27 Body build
28 Nero or Cato
29 Say aloud
30 Colorado river
32 Handbag logo
33 Hawke of "Alive"
34 "Nothing –!"
37 Armstrong and Simon
41 Disrespectful laugh
44 Sketchiest
45 Kind of trip
47 Place
49 Cliffside dwellers
51 Arg. neighbor
53 Gave a hand
55 Job-safety org.
56 Obsessed whaler
57 You can dig it
59 Funny Bombeck
61 Pharmacy buy
62 Crew
63 Online auction
66 DDE, for one



# metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 6 | 9 | | 5 | | | |
| | | 7 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 4 | 1 | |
| | 6 | | 7 | | | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| | 5 | | | | | | 3 | |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | | | 8 | | 7 | |
| | 2 | 8 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | 2 | 7 | | |
| | | | 6 | | 4 | 8 | 2 | |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | 1 | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 9 | 6 | | 4 |
| 5 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 3 | 9 | | | 4 | | | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | | 4 | | 1 |
| 1 | | 4 | 7 | | 6 | 9 | 3 | |
| 2 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | | 5 | | | 8 |

# metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** Embrace change, look for alternatives and push your ideas until you reach your goal. Own what you do and say and you will gain respect, opportunity and support.

**Taurus** Call in favors or make a point to join forces with people who share your concerns and goals. Your organizational ability will put you in a position of leadership.

**Gemini** There will be plenty going on behind closed doors. Listen carefully, or you may end up facing an unexpected dilemma that can cost you your reputation.

**Cancer** You'll be given mixed signals when it comes to where you stand with others. Don't let compliments color your vision. Look at the facts and act accordingly.

**Leo** Put more focus on your personal relationships as well as on your health and appearance. Make love, peace and generosity priorities if you want to improve your life.

**Virgo** Don't spend money just to impress someone. Stay focused on what's important and on the events or encounters that will bring you the highest rewards.

**Libra** You don't have to go overboard when it comes to maintaining your looks and good health. Streamline your fitness goals and follow a diet that is cost-efficient and healthy.

**Scorpio** An emotional situation will throw you off your game. Look for balance and integrity in all your transactions. Don't make decisions based on assumptions or hearsay.

**Sagittarius** You will have no trouble gaining control, but before you take command, make sure you want the responsibility that comes with the job. Know your limitations.

**Capricorn** Make physical changes at home to encourage stability and ease your stress. Altering your domestic circumstances will contribute to peace of mind.

**Aquarius** Keep your personal information a secret. Don't divulge financial concerns or give anyone access to your assets. Focus on personal gains and greater security.

**Pisces** You'll be offered the help you need but before you accept, find out what's expected in return. Don't put yourself in a compromising position. EUGENIA LAST

**Yesterday's answers**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | I | N | G | Y | ■ | C | A | R | P | ■ | T | R | O | T |
| A | D | E | L | E | ■ | O | G | E | E | ■ | H | O | P | E |
| P | E | R | O | N | ■ | M | U | D | S | ■ | A | L | A | N |
| S | A | D | A | T | ■ | B | A | C | K | F | I | L | L | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | M | ■ | A | Y | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | L | A | S | ■ | E | A | R | P | ■ | A | C | I | D | S |
| O | A | T | ■ | O | M | N | I | ■ | C | R | A | V | A | T |
| S | T | A | N | D | O | N | C | E | R | E | M | O | N | Y |
| S | H | R | E | D | S | ■ | C | O | E | D | ■ | R | E | L |
| A | S | I | D | E | ■ | D | I | N | S | ■ | N | Y | S | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | L | Y | ■ | ■ | T | R | I | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | W | R | I | T | I | N | G | S | ■ | O | C | H | E | R |
| B | O | A | S | ■ | B | A | L | E | ■ | W | E | E | D | Y |
| U | R | G | E | ■ | E | M | I | R | ■ | E | L | E | N | A |
| M | D | S | E | ■ | L | O | B | E | ■ | D | Y | L | A | N |

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